



# Recycling Lines

Electronic Newsletter

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*Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Environmental Enhancement*

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DEQ's Community Involvement Initiative: The Department of Environmental Quality is dedicated to helping the public better understand DEQ's role in protecting the environment, and to involving the public more effectively in environmental decision making.

**Welcome to Recycling Lines.** If you have suggestions on future topics for the newsletter, please send the information to Steve Coe at [steve.coe@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:steve.coe@deq.virginia.gov).

## Virginia Department of Education Issues School Recycling Guidance

To encourage and promote in-school recycling, DOE has issued its **Guidelines for Recycling Materials in Public Schools** providing the document to each School Superintendent in the Commonwealth. DOE recognizes that it is the responsibility of each local school board to develop its own individual recycling and waste reduction program, and that the implementation of any such program rests with the local school board.

The guidance is designed to provide a common structure for both existing and new recycling programs for the schools. (<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents/memos/2010/012-10.shtml>)

## Food Waste Diversion for Composting offers Recycling and Environmental Benefits

Today's typical community recycling program recovers bottles, cans, and paper, and sometimes yard trimmings. These programs on average divert 30% from the waste stream. In order to increase recycling/waste diversion above 50% and mitigate climate change, many communities are expanding their collection programs to include organic materials like food scraps and soiled paper.

### Why Divert Food Scraps?

- ? Organic waste accounts for over 60% of municipal solid waste disposed of in landfills
- ? Food scraps account for over 20% of municipal solid waste
- ? Organic materials in landfills decompose to create methane, a potent greenhouse gas
- ? Food scraps in landfills contribute to leachate production

### Benefits of Organic Waste Diversion & Compost

- ? Helps achieve zero waste goals
- ? Helps achieve climate change goals
- ? Decreases need for synthetic fertilizers and pesticides
- ? Sequesters carbon by increasing stored soil carbon
- ? Increases water retention of soil thus decreasing demand for irrigation
- ? Improves crop yields and quality
- ? Improves soil tilth

## Did You Know?

- EPA has released the **2008 Municipal Solid Waste Characterization Report** with 2008 data on Solid Waste, Recycling and Composting data for the USA. See the report at <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/nonhaz/municipal/msw99.htm>
- Goodwill Industries and Dell recently announced that an additional 445 locations have been added to their Reconnect electronics network, now over 1,900 throughout the USA. For a list of participating Goodwill locations, visit [www.reconnectpartnership.com](http://www.reconnectpartnership.com).
- Earth Day is 40 Years Old in 2010!



## Virginia Green

Travelers who are passionate about preserving and protecting the environment are checking into Virginia Green. Virginia Green is the statewide program that works to reduce the environmental impacts of Virginia's tourism industry. It is a partnership between the [Virginia Tourism Corporation](http://www.virginiatourism.com) and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

The program awards Virginia Green Certification to tourism-related business such as hotels, restaurants and attractions that are taking voluntary actions to reduce any potential harmful impacts on the environment.

If you are looking to travel in Virginia, look for the Virginia Green logo. It means that the business is taking steps to improve the environment such as:

- Optional Linen Service
- Recycling
- Eliminating/minimizing disposables
- Implementing Water and Energy Conservation measures
- Hosting Green Events

## Recycle Pens, Markers and Other Writing Instruments with TerraCycle

What to do with those pens and markers that no longer write? Now it is possible to recycle those items and raise funds for a local non-profit such as a school or community group. Sharpie, Paper Mate and EXPO brands announced a new partnership with TerraCycle to recover and recycle their writing instruments. With the addition of pens and markers, TerraCycle now accepts twenty-three different materials for recycling. Visit [www.terracycle.net](http://www.terracycle.net) for additional information.

Collection centers called "Writing Instrument Brigades" will be set up at participating locales in large businesses and schools where writing instruments are used most. For every writing instrument collected, two cents will be paid to a school, community group, charity or non-profit organization of the participant's choice.

The collected writing instruments will be disassembled and reprocessed to make new products. The program is free, and only requires the participant to set up a collection point for the pens and markers. Once a sufficient quantity of pens and markers have been collected, the participant can print a pre-paid shipping label from TerraCycle's web site for use in sending the pens and markers to TerraCycle.

For more information on the Writing Instruments Brigade, visit any of these Web sites: [www.terracycle.net](http://www.terracycle.net), [www.sharpie.com](http://www.sharpie.com), [www.papermate.com](http://www.papermate.com), or [www.expomarkers.com](http://www.expomarkers.com).

## Celebrate Earth Day – 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Earth Day represents a desire to return to nature, to reduce pollution and to make decisions to reduce our impact on the environment. On April 22, think of ways you can reduce your environmental footprint. Visit <http://www.earthday.net/earthday2010> for ideas on how you can be green and celebrate Earth Day.

## Virginia GEMS

Looking for that perfect gift? Want to make his or her special day memorable? Hate gift wrapping? A new program in the Roanoke area is geared up to help you identify those special experiences that will help reduce waste as well as support the local economy.

Virginia GEMS (Give Experience. Minimize Stuff) encourages you to consider gifts of arts and culture, and your presence, for that next special event. A program of the Arts Council of The Blue Ridge, Virginia GEMS works with local businesses, organizations and artists to promote the experience gifting option. Gifts of spa treatments, theater tickets, special classes, wine tastings, hiking adventures, and the like may be just the ticket for a memorable celebration.

For more information, visit [www.theartscouncil.org](http://www.theartscouncil.org) or contact Ms. Laura Rawlings, Executive Director, at 540-342-5720 or via email at [lrawlings@theartscouncil.org](mailto:lrawlings@theartscouncil.org).

## 1-800-Recycling.com

1-800-Recycling.com has added UsedCardboardBoxes.com to its nationwide network of recycling resources available to businesses and consumers. The site also provides access to information on a wide range of environmental news and recycling options.

[www.UsedCardboardBoxes.com](http://www.UsedCardboardBoxes.com) seeks truckloads of quality used boxes from large manufacturers that might otherwise throw them away. Companies also use the service when recycling cardboard isn't commercially viable.

The 1-800-Recycling.com Web site provides U.S. recycling locations, searchable by ZIP code, and allows consumers to find recycling locations for specific materials. Consumers can also call the Web site at 1-800-732-9254 to find responsible recyclers of cardboard, electronics, tires, oil, paint, glass, plastic, household hazardous waste, wood, mattresses, carpet and other materials.

## YouTube Recycling Video

RecycleBank has released a video on YouTube which explains what happens to your recyclables that are placed at the curb. Visit:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zh4F3sZNLqA>

## Calendar of Events

**March 3: Meeting: Recycling Markets Development Council, DEQ Piedmont Office, Glen Allen, 10-1.**

**March 15-19: 20th Annual Carolina Recycling Association Conference and Trade Show, Asheville, North Carolina. [www.cra-recycle.org](http://www.cra-recycle.org).**

**May 18-19: Virginia Recycling Association's annual conference and trade show. Wyndham Hotel, Virginia Beach.**

**April 6 – 8: [2010 Environment Virginia Symposium, VMI](#)**

**April 15: [Rural Recycling EPA Webinar](#)**

**April 22:  
EARTH DAY!**

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